

VOL-1 ISSUE - 52

APR 29, 2022

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CULTURAL ONLINE MAGAZINE

INK **ochi**

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

52



**REALISTIC SLICE
OF KERALA IN OIL**

BY BABITHA NAIR



**KERALA
TRAVEL MART**

**KOCHI - KERALA - INDIA
MAY 05-08, 2022**

**BEST CURATOR
OF THE YEAR**

Bose Krishnamachari



CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

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Editor's Note**REALISM IN ART**

Realism is an art style that focuses on making pieces look as realistic and true-to-life as possible.

Think of realistic portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings. These are all forms of realism which aim to capture the subject in a realistic style, and possibly to portray the subject in a way that captures the realities of life.

While the subjects may sometimes appear somewhat stylized, realism seeks to present subjects as they look in real life. For some great examples of realism check out artists like Gustave Courbet, Winslow Homer, Édouard Manet, and Rembrandt.

It's a popular style and one that's either snubbed(why make something look like it does in real life instead of doing something original?) or lauded as "good" art (wow, that looks so real! You're such a good artist.) But realism is often the learning ground for artists of any medium since practicing from life is the key to becoming truly skilled.

You've probably heard the old adage that you need to learn the rules so you can break them, and this absolutely applies here. In this issue, we go with Babitha Nair along with her realistic paintings.



Happy Reading...!!

Varghese T. Thomas

WAYANAD



To most people, Kerala is synonymous with lofty coconut trees and pristine beaches, but the real beauty of Kerala lies in its hills. And amongst all hill stations of Kerala, Wayanad is truly worth visiting once in a lifetime.

The natural beauty of Wayanad is so rich that visitors from the world over come to experience the enchanting views. Positively, its huge stretches hem in foggy mountain peaks, interesting meadows, streaming water springs, and entrancing gloriousness.

With blue water lakes and ultimate beauty of the mountains, Wayanad is definitely a spot to explore the natural beauty. However, the beautiful town of Wayanad is loaded with magnificent places to visit; most of them are surrounded by greenery all around. This interesting hill station is certainly an ideal way to reduce stress. The assortment of outings guarantees an ideal vacation for travelers.

Wayanad should definitely be your next choice of destination if you are looking for a less explored yet beautiful place to visit.

WAYANAD



Bamboo Rafting in Kuruva Island

Famous for bamboo boating in the midst of the picturesque environment, it is amongst the best activities in Wayanad. The island offers you pleasant views of bamboo bridges, and umpteenth number of chances to spot varieties of trees, enjoy bird watching.



Chembra Peak

Situated at a height of 2100m above the sea level, it offers ample views of Western Ghats. You would get a genuine calming feeling on watching lush green mountains. This spellbinding spot is viewed as a perfect picnic spot. Other than simply being viewpoint or a picnic spot, Chembra Peak is additionally notable as a perfect place for trekking and enjoying the staggering nature through nature walks.

WAYANAD

Banasura Sagar Dam

The second biggest dam in Asia, the Banasura Sagar Dam is viewed as the top tourist spot around Wayanad. What draws in the traveler to this amazing spot is boating service in the dam also the trekking choices for adventure lovers. This enables them to come in close contact with the magnificent natural beauty dotted around. The sanctuary and the g park look amazingly delightful.



Eddakal Caves

Situated 10km from Wayanad, these caves are said to be the best instance of human existence in pre-historic time. The cave carvings feature the lifestyle of people of pre-historic ages. Undoubtedly, you will feel closer to the medieval age, which is very captivating.

Source: EXPERIENCE KERALA

Kerala Travel Mart Opens on May 5 Buyers from 69 nations

By Staff Reporter



Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the eleventh edition of Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) on May 5, opening the country's largest tourism industry congregation at Kochi amid hopes of a revival in post-pandemic travel.

A flurry of business meets on May 6 and 7 will be the highlight of the event being organized by the KTM Society. The conclave is expected to boost Kerala's revival of the tourism sector by attracting visitors from across the world after two years of slide owing to Covid-19.

Tourism Minister Shri P.A. Mohamed Riyas will chair the inaugural function at Grand Hyatt in Bolgatty of this city. This will be followed by two days of hectic business meets on May 6 and 7 at Sagara and Samudrika convention centres at Willingdon Island. In continued spirit of giving a fillip to local tourism, the public will be given access to the pavilions in these two venues on May 8 from 1 pm for five hours, organizers said today.



Sustaining the spirit of the recent launch of the state government's 'Keravan Kerala', the upcoming edition of KTM will have caravan tourism and adventure tourism among its focal themes.

Alongside, the internationally-acclaimed responsible tourism, too, will receive prominent attention, KTM functionaries told a press conference here.

Shortly before the event, Kochi backwaters will host a sample show of the second edition of the IPL-modelled Champions Boat League being organised by Kerala Tourism, KTM Society President Shri Baby Mathew informed.

Organisers have charted a pre-KTM tour for vloggers and media delegates from within the country and abroad to show the beauty and variety of Kerala's destinations. There will also be a similar post-event tour for select buyers attending the mart, KTM former President Shri Abraham George said. Buyers from 69 countries have registered for KTM, he added.

The upcoming mart, which is to be totally paper-free in a space of 1.5 lakh square feet, will feature exhibitions on key tourism themes, KTM Society Secretary Shri Jose Pradeep said. Already an encouraging number of international and domestic buyers have registered for KTM, which is also set to give prominence to the government's tourism initiatives in upstate Malabar.

The 2000-constituted KTM Society, which is the country's biggest organization in the travel and tourism segment, has been working towards reviving the industry since the spread of the novel coronavirus in the state two years ago.

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Hello! INDIA ART AWARDS

By Staff Reporter



Renowned artist Bose Krishnamachari, who is also curator of the event, LOKAME THARAVADU and president of Biennale Foundation, had honoured with 'Exhibition of the Year 2022', 'Best Curator of the Year', for the exhibition 'Lokame Tharavadu' curated by Bose and organised by Kochi Biennale Foundation.

The award jury comprised of reputed members from the art fraternity such as Lekha Poddar, Art Collector and Museum Founder, Rahaab Allana, Curator and Archivist, Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, Director of Dr Bhau Dhaji Lad Museum and Abhishek Poddar, Art Collector and Museum Founder who selected the winners for twelve different categories. Out of these four categories were won by artists belonging to Kerala.

The Hello! India Arts Award has been instituted by RP Sanjeev Goenka group to honour the best works and artists in the Indian art and cultural scene.

Hello! INDIA ART AWARDS



Indu Antony



Sajan Mani

"I specially mentioned that this award coincided with the tenth year of the Kochi Muziris Biennale and it is only with gratitude that I used the occasion to thank all the patrons and artists whose valuable support was important in sustaining the programme for all this while. I am also thankful to the extensive support of Government of Kerala and Tourism Department.

It was also an extremely jubilant moment to see young artists, Indu Antony (Best Art Book of the Year) and Sajan Mani (Best Breakthrough Artist of the Year) who were also part of the 'Lokame Tharavadu' show honoured with the awards. The massive exhibition was held in different venues of Alappuzha and Ernakulam.

Despite various hardships and hurdles during the Covid surge the exhibition attracted widespread footfall from India and abroad. It was praised widely for its inclusive participation, diversity of mediums and exhibition design"... Bose said.

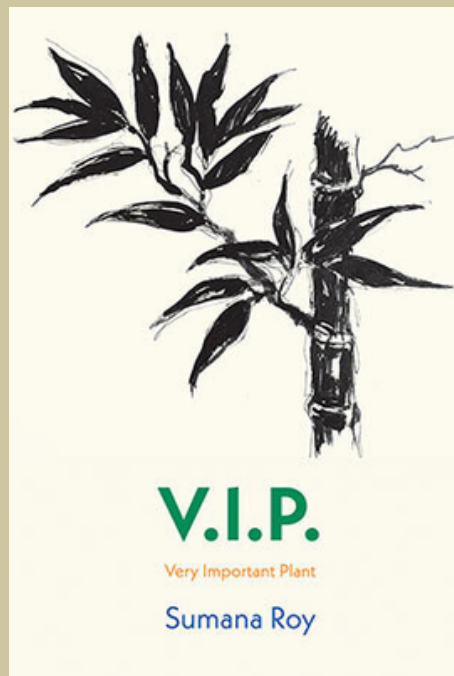
About the Writer

Sumana Roy is the author of *How I Became a Tree* (2017), *Missing: A Novel* (2018), *Out of Syllabus: Poems* (2019), and *My Mother's Lover and Other Stories* (2019). She has edited *Animalia Indica: The Finest Animal Stories in Modern Indian Literature* (Aleph), and her poems, essays and stories have been published in *Granta*, *Guernica*, *Prairie Schooner*, *LARB*, *The Common*, *The White Review*, *Catapult*, *Berfrois*, *The Journal of South Asian Studies*, *American Book Review*, among other places.

She is currently Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Ashoka University, India. Her much acclaimed nonfiction book *How I Became A Tree*, published in India by Aleph in 2017, has been translated into French (Gallimard) and German (Matthes & Seitz). Shearsman Books publish her second collection of poems, *V.I.P. (Very Important Plant)*, in May 2022.



Sumana Roy



About the Book

Even as she was searching for people who had wanted to live like a tree, a quest recorded in her book *How I Became a Tree*, Sumana Roy was simultaneously writing poems to imagine the opposite: How might it feel for plants to live social lives as humans? In *V.I.P.*, 'plant' replaces 'person' to become Very Important Plant. In this new cosmology, leaves and fruits and roots are seen as perhaps they have never been before - whether flowers can be repaired or trees have insurance policies; the invisible scaffolding of water in onion and the jackfruit as the Buddha's head, the papaya as Trojan horse and the 'war-veteran fine fuzz' of peaches, the 'shape of ceremony' of apples and the cosmopolitanism of the forest; how we want affection to be boneless and why the taste of light might be bitter; or whether God might be a vegetable...

REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

By Artist Babitha Nair



COVER STORY



A canvas that strike a chord

Interview & Text by:
Annie Smitha

Some of Babitha's paintings often made the onlooker cry. A street performer broke down with tears looking at the painting- 'Pain, Hope and Expectation'. He felt it was his own mother carrying the baby that was him. >>



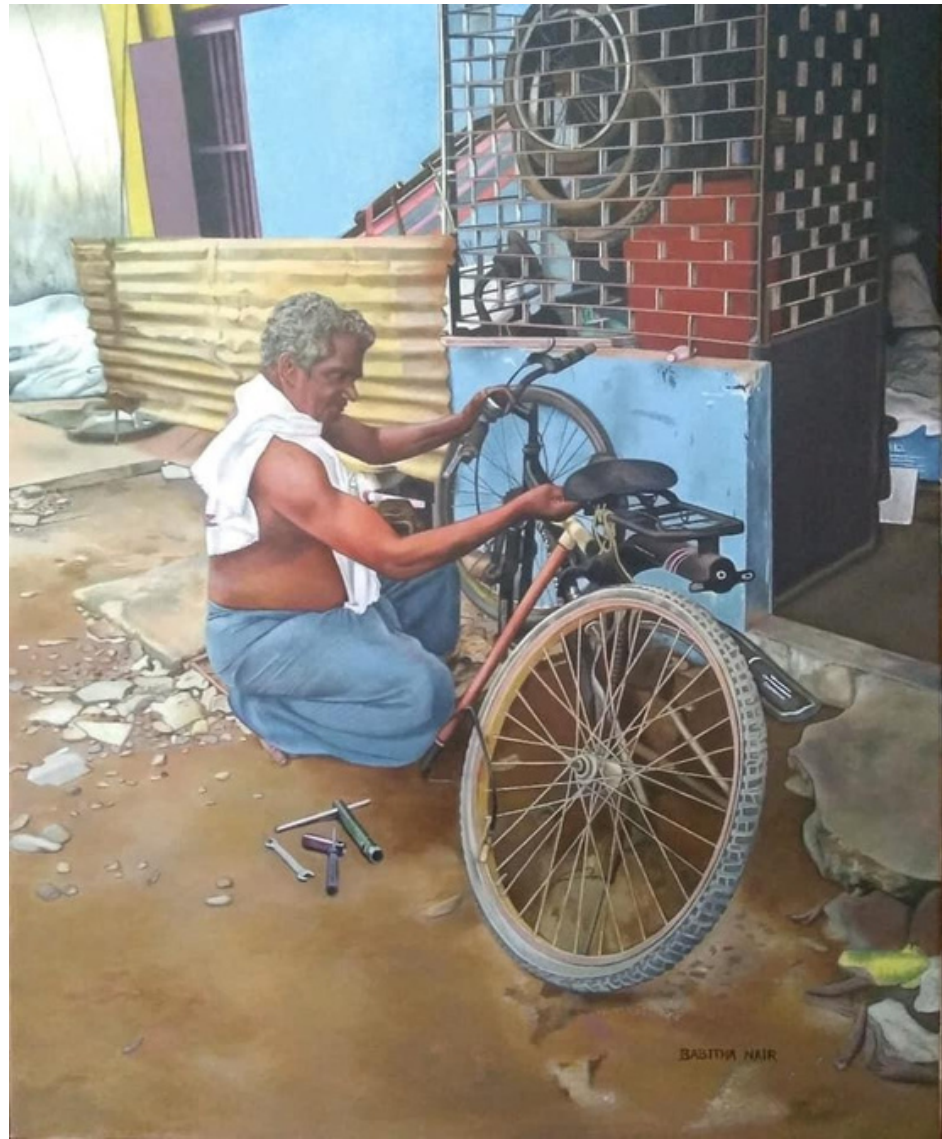
BABITHA NAIR

REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**

Drawings have always captivated the human imagination. Man used it as a specialised form of communication before the invention of the written language. Caves and rock paintings produced thousands of years back tells us more about the early humans who made red ochre crayons. Different forms of art continue to allure man even now.

The peculiarity of the paintings of Babitha Nair - a Thiruvananthapuram based freelance artist is that it invokes a pang of longing towards something that is lost or alien to us now. Those born before the invasion of digitalisation could connect more with the subject of her paintings. Minute detailing and perfection of shading gives life to the realistic images captured on Babitha's canvas.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**

The colourful, curious childhood memories imbibing the subtle elements of life that she visualised - the wrinkled palms of women who weaved coconut leaves into mat, the latex stained knife and the greasy fingers of men cutting open a jackfruit, the rusted grill and the keen eyes of the man who repaired a bicycle. Babitha's scanning eyes imprints these images on her heart which she recreates on plain white canvas.



To top it all the stories her grandmother narrated and lulled her to sleep all formed the basis of her soulful paintings. Fascinated by the wonders that her magical fingers created, Babitha's neighbour once asked her to paint an old faded statue of Mother Mary. Babitha received her first payment and another order for repainting a statue. Next, she received an order from her Sanskrit teacher to decorate a clay pot.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**



The teacher insisted on making a payment. These incidents made her aware of the value of the work she did. Something that the child did for her pastime turned into a serious occupation.

Living in the heart of a city did not bar her from making friends. Her passion for recreating Ravi Varma's paintings was born out of her visits to a neighbour's home where she read about Raja Ravi Varma. Babitha's parents encouraged her a lot.



She recollects her father reminding her that man painted inside caves long before the discovery of electricity; whenever Babitha complained of not having proper light to paint.

REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

A canvas that strike a chord

She won competitions after competitions till class four. She used to enjoy the lime juice and the ambience where numerous kids sat down and drew whatever they liked. She made greeting cards and gifted beautiful pieces of art crafted with her own hands to family and friends.

However as she grew up she hid her skills inside the four walls of her room. Babitha took classes in glass, nib and knife painting during her vacation after tenth standard which rekindled her passion for creativity. She realised her calling for art as her profession and decided to pursue it soon after her Pre-Degree from Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode, Kerala.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

A canvas that strike a chord

Babitha took a Diploma in Fashion Designing and later BFA from Chithrakala Parishad, Bangalore. Meanwhile, she worked as a Creative Artist for Sanfab India Private Limited Company. The urge to develop her skills and her ambition to establish herself as an independent artist made her quit the job. Soon she began freelancing and has been doing commissioned portraits and the like.



She has recreated almost 200 Ravi Varma paintings on fabric including a 5.6 feet 'Hamsa-Damayanti'. Recreation of Ajanta and Ellora Cave Paintings was yet another challenging work.

REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**

The hardships of old age and the innocence of childhood mostly feature in Babitha's paintings. The artist attributes it to the bonding she shared with her grandmother who breathed her last holding Babitha's hands. She tries to capture the untold miseries of old that the new generation who got everything at their fingertips never understood. Some of her paintings often made the onlooker cry.



A street performer broke down with tears looking at the painting- 'Pain, Hope and Expectation'. He felt it was his own mother carrying the baby that was him.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**

The beauty of Babitha's work is not the pomp and show or the grandeur of a technology-driven life but the quintessence of life as it is without decorations- 'The Faces of Life' as she calls it.

'An old woman who sold tapioca in the hot blazing sun'- is an image of the need to work at that age to keep going for the unprivileged ones. People sometimes mistake her paintings for photographs because of their perfection and their realistic nature.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**

There is a story behind each of her beautiful creations. A visit to the 'Vellayani kaayal' and a chit chat with the tea seller savouring his black tea resulted in yet another of her masterpiece painting-'An open space behind the tea shop stacked with all kinds of things.'

Babitha has conducted Solo Exhibition of her paintings at Chithrakala Parishad Bangalore in 2014. In 2016 she conducted yet another Solo Exhibition of Paintings in Thiruvananthapuram and later a group show in 2019. She has received numerous awards and accolades from national and international bodies for her artworks.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**



She has received recognition on television, social media and in printed magazines. Major Newspapers in the country like The Hindu, and Deccan Chronicle have featured the works of Babitha Nair.



Settled in Thiruvananthapuram with her husband and son, she wishes to establish a studio and gallery in the long run. Babitha teaches art to those who are seriously interested during her spare time. She creates all kinds of drawings and paintings on commission but realistic paintings gives her more satisfaction .

REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

**A canvas that
strike a chord**



A thorough professional who does not like to waste a fraction of second is all set to conduct solo exhibition of artworks in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi respectively. Self-discipline, devotion and determination are the qualities that this artist urges the upcoming generation to practice.



REALISTIC SLICE OF KERALA

A canvas that strike a chord

Babitha's dream is to create an artwork that immortalises the artist in her for generations to come. She is now engaged in memorising and reflecting on the images of the past that our children may never experience in future and turning them into characters that speak through their actions and expressions that strike a chord.



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What Do 'Legs' Mean in Wine?

BY JIM GORDON

If you swirl wine in a glass and then set it down for a few seconds, you'll see a weird thing happen. It defies gravity. First, a ridge of liquid rises up the sides of the glass, and then the liquid drips back down in little rivulets that form a sort of necklace around the inside.

These are called wine "legs," or "tears." They don't always need a swirl to get started, either. The simple act of pouring a full-bodied wine or spirit into a glass can also get them going.

So, what are the legs on a wine glass, exactly? Do they indicate anything about the taste or quality of the wine?

What causes wine legs? Scientists have tried to answer this question for centuries. In 1855, Scottish physicist James Thomson was the first to correctly describe the phenomenon, presumably based on years of scrutinizing his after-dinner Port glass.

An expert in fluid dynamics, Thomson's qualitative study of the behavior of water and alcohol in glasses keyed on the role of surface tension and how it varies between the two liquids, causing movements.

The next big step didn't occur until 1982, when Australia-born geophysicist Herbert Huppert created an equation that models the behavior of "shock waves" in solutions, like in wine legs. He poured liquids down a slope and measured their speed and height to formulate a model similar to those describing traffic flow.

One of today's leading experts is Andrea Bertozzi, professor of mathematics at UCLA. "The story of tears of wine is an old story about a balance between surface stress and gravity," she says. This year, she and her team published a paper, *A Theory for Undercompressive Shocks in Tears of Wine*.

Bertozzi compares the rising ring on a wine glass to the phenomenon of rainwater that rises up the windshield of a moving car, where wind creates a surface stress. In a glass, the instantaneous evaporation of alcohol around the edge of the liquid leads to lower alcohol in that region compared to the rest of the glass. This creates a difference in surface tension that pulls the liquid up the side of the glass in a ridge that Bertozzi calls a shock wave.

"It's counterintuitive," she says, "Alcohol as a chemical can change the surface tension of a liquid quite a lot. The stress is like a wind, pushing it from regions of lower surface tension to higher surface tension which means it's going to be driving the flow up."

What Do 'Legs' Mean in Wine?



The paper calls the upward flow a reverse undercompressive shock known to be unstable, according to a synopsis on the Physical Review Fluids website, where their study is published. So, any inconsistencies in the shock wave grow into drops that eventually fall as legs.

What Do 'Legs' Mean in Wine?

Source: Wine Enthusiast Magazine

What do wine legs tell you about the wine?

The prominence of legs in a glass generally indicates higher alcohol content, and thus a richer texture and fuller body. That's why they're especially prominent in fortified wines and high-proof spirits. It's also known that legs are diminished by chilling a beverage or diluting it with ice.

But don't let anyone tell you that wine legs indicate wine quality. So far, research has made no such connection, so we'll have to keep tasting wine ourselves to make that judgment.

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